

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03 AID-20 DRC-01 /079 W

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R 291912Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5877

INFO USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2302

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJECT: MENDOZA GOVERNOR CHARGED WITH MALFEASANCE

1. SUMMARY: PROVINCIAL SENATE HAS CHARGED GOVERNOR MARTINEZ BACA (ONE OF THE ORIGINAL CAMPORA CANDIDATES) WITH INVOLVEMENT IN ILLEGAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS. UCR AND OTHER PARTIES BACK MOVE AND SOME ARE CALLING FOR HIS RESIGNATION. END SUMMARY.

2. MENDOZA PROVINCIAL SENATE MAR 28 UPHELD FINDINGS OF SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE WHICH HAD BEEN LOOKING INTO ALLEGED ILLEGAL TRANSACTIONS OF STATE WINE WAREHOUSE. COMMITTEE HAD CHARGED GOVERNOR'S SON WITH INFLUENCE PEDDLING AND SELF-ENRICHMENT AND INDICATED GOVERNOR HIMSELF HAD BENEFITTED FROM AND BEEN INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL TRANSACTIONS.

3. INVESTIGATION WAS LAUNCHED BY FREJULI BLOC, THUS RAISING SUSPICION THAT IT REPRESENTED PLOY ON PART ORTHODOX PERONISTS TO GET RID OF MARTINEZ BACA. FINDINGS, HOWEVER, WERE BACKED BY UCR AND OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES. IN FACT, IN ENDORSING COMMITTEE'S REPORT, SEVERAL OPPOSITION SENATORS BEAT PERONISTS TO THE PUNCH IN CALLING FOR GOVERNOR'S IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION.

4. PRO-PERONIST DAILY MAYORIA MAY 29 DECLARES GOVERNOR
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MARTINEZ BACA HAS BEEN PLACED IN UNTENABLE POSITION WITH

ONLY THREE CHOICES: (1) STALL FOR TIME BY ASKING FOR NEW INVESTIGATION; (2) RESIGN, OR (3) FACE IMPEACHMENT.

5. COMMENT: IF CHARGES RESULT IN GOVERNOR'S OUSTER OR RESIGNATION, THEY WILL HAVE NEATLY AND LEGALLY SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF "CAMPORA-ORIENTED" GOVERNOR IN MENDOZA. THIS IS CERTAINLY A MORE SOPHISTICATED--AND EFFECTIVE--WAY OF GOING ABOUT REPLACING GOVERNOR THAN THE HEAVY-HANDED METHOD TRIED IN CORDOBA SOME WEEKS BACK. RATHER THAN LEAVING DISCORD BETWEEN PARTIES IN ITS WAKE, MOVE TO DEMAND GOVERNOR'S RESIGNATION APPARENTLY WILL HAVE SUPPORT OF ALL PARTIES.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CORRUPTION, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, GRAFT, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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